

2017 Austin Nightlife Initiative

The Austin Nightlife Initiative contains seven components to develop a safe and vibrant nighttime economy. The goals of the initiative are to ensure public safety, streamlining the multiple permit process's for better coordination between city departments with regulatory and enforcement responsibilities of entertainment venues so we may maintain urban vibrancy, and grow our local economy.

The Austin Nightlife Initiative is a comprehensive approach for managing Austin's nighttime economy through a full suite of interdependent actions.

1. Code Compliance Enforcement (PACE)

Develop an assistance and enforcement strategy with nighttime businesses

Solve problems before they become chronic issues

Activate PACE (Public Assembly Code Enforcement) consistently throughout the year. (PACE is an interdepartmental team comprised of departments with regulatory or enforcement responsibilities in special events or night life establishments)

Assign two night shift compliance inspectors

Interdepartmental street / policy teams

2. Professional Development

Type: Quarterly public workshops

Objective: Develop and encourage the adoption of best practices for nightlife businesses

Key agenda items: entertainment business education, sound management best practices

Output: codified live music strategies; nightlife handbook for venues

Possible broadcasting/streaming event live to allow for broader public participation (TV Town Hall).

Live Music Venue and Nightlife Establishment handbook for venue management - contains information regarding all necessary permits and contact information for representatives of applicable City departments (MED is in process of developing this)

3. District Community Outreach

Type: Regularly scheduled public district community outreach meetings to build trust between businesses and residents and to listen to any concerns.

Key agenda items: Provide City updates to public; report on progress made addressing previous public concerns; hear new concerns, provide feedback and commit to exploration of possible solutions

Output: open dialogue and feedback loop regarding issues of concern

This could also benefit from broadcasting/streaming event live to allow for broader public participation (TV Town Hall).

4. Venue Crowd Management Training

Objective: offer regular APD facilitated crowd management training classes to venue staff. Training becomes mandatory if venue has repeated code violations / 911 calls

Key agenda items: Implement venue security trainings based on successful Seattle Police

Department class model

Output: Create guide for delivering training

5. Sound Ordinance Enforcement

Adopt streamlined sound ordinance rules and consistent enforcement for targeting chronic offenders.

Consistent enforcement of ordinance

Education and outreach

Target chronic offenders

Music Venue Loan fund for sound mitigation

6. Late-night Transportation Alternatives

Create accessible and safe late-night transportation and parking options

Type: Public meeting; ATX Safer Streets, Cap Metro, venue employees, patrons, music organizations, transportation companies,

Objective: create accessible and safe late-night transportation and parking options

Key agenda items: Utilize unused downtown parking garages for entertainment industry employee and patron parking. Possible shuttle to and from entertainment districts

Output: New transportation options and advertising ideas to let the public know about them

This could benefit from broadcasting/streaming event live to allow for broader public participation (TV Town Hall).

7. Targeting Public Nuisances

Create a city ordinance to allow APD greater ability to manage patrons of nightlife establishments that are contributing to public nuisances, disturbances and disorderly conduct

A tool for dealing with disorderly individuals (*Seattle "Meathead" ordinance relates to conduct in public places and makes nighttime disturbances a civil infraction*)

Move forward with sobriety center to allow for more APD officers on the street